Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Families serve as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem, and support, and are the very foundation of our communities, our state, and our nation; and,

Whereas, Dedicated foster families provide safe, nurturing homes to more than 925 children and youth in South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Foster families open their homes and hearts and give hope to children in South Dakota whose families are in crisis. They play a vital role in helping children and families heal, reconnect, and launch children into successful adulthood; and,

Whereas, Their contributions of time, talent, and mentorship make a world of difference for children in foster care who benefit from enduring relationships with sincere and caring adults; and,

Whereas, There are numerous individuals, public and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care as well as the enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents; and,

Whereas, The individual commitments to becoming a foster family for children in need represents the ultimate expression of community service; and,

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2009 as

FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to volunteer their talents and generous spirits on behalf of children in foster care.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Ninth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State